SECRET
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TO: IMMEDIATE DIRNSA, DEPT OF STATE, DIA WASHINGTON DC, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM, USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI, JICPAC HONOLULU HI.
PASS: FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM:
PASS: FOR THE DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM; NSA FOR ZKZK OO ZRL DE (EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR NSA); STATE EXCLUSIVE FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INR; DIA EXCLUSIVE FOR THE DIRECTOR DIA AND PASS TO NWS (DIRECTOR ONLY); EXCLUSIVE FOR USCINCPAC; EXCLUSIVE FOR COMMANDER JICPAC.
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIST: 19 DECEMBER 1991
COUNTRY: VIETNAM/USSR
SUBJ: POW/MIA: VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GUIDANCE ON POSSIBLE SOVIET ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM BETWEEN 1975 TO 1978
DOI: 1975 - MID-DECEMBER 1991
TEXT: 1. ON 16 DECEMBER 1991, THE VIETNAMESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) ISSUED GUIDANCE TO ALL ITS MISSIONS AND MFA PERSONNEL ASSIGNED ABROAD INSTRUCTING THEM TO DENY ANY SOVIET ALLEGATIONS THAT VIETNAM ALLOWED THE KGB TO INTERROGATE AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) BETWEEN 1975 AND 1978. COMMENT: A
THE "NEW YORK TIMES" PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE STATING THAT A TELEVISION STATION



NAMED "HAPPINESS" (HANH PHUC) INTERVIEWED SEVERAL FORMER KGB OFFICERS WHO CLAIM THEY WORKED WITH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES TO INTERROGATE AMERICAN POWS FROM 1975 TO 1978 IN HANOI. THE POWS THEN WERE SENT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED (CO THE BI THU TIEU). THE NEW YORK TIMES ON 8 DECEMBER PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE CITING AN AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION REPORT THAT THE KGB INTERROGATED U.S. POWS BETWEEN 1975 AND 1978. THE TIMES ARTICLE STATED THAT "AGENTS" BELIEVED THE AMERICANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED AFTER BEING RETURNED TO THE VIETNAMESE.) 2. THE GUIDANCE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE MFA HAS INFORMATION INDICATING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL INTERVIEW FORMER KGB GENERAL OLEG ((KALUGIN)) AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN MOSCOW ON 18 DECEMBER. THE MINISTRY BELIEVES THAT IF KALUGIN CONFIRMS THIS STORY, IT WILL PUT VIETNAM AT A DISADVANTAGE. (SE LAM BAT LOI CHO VIET NAM). THE GUIDANCE ALSO STATED THAT THE MFA ASSIGNED TO REVIEW KALUGIN'S INTERVIEW AND DENY ANY POSITIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY KALUGIN REGARDING THIS POW ISSUE. IF, HOWEVER, KALUGIN DENIES THE EARLIER REPORT, IS TO GET AS MUCH PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE FROM THIS DENIAL AND GET OTHER NEWSPAPERS TO CARRY THE STORY.